

THE smile on manager Andy Williams' face said it all. He had just watched his weakened side thrash the nants off Enfield and end the Isthmian League Champions' unbeaten run of 25 games in convincing style.

The above scoreline makes scarcely credible reading. But it's true and shows that Wycombe can match any non-League team in the land when they put away their chances — and that's exactly what they did on Saturday to become the first side in nearly 18 months to win at Southbury Road. It was Enfield's biggest home defeat for seven years, when they lost 4-0 — to Wycombe Wanderers, who have

Enfield 1, Wycombe Wanderers 4 Report by MICHAEL KNOX

made a patchy start to the season, were jubilant after the game as they proved that Enfield, who romped away with the league title last year are by no means unbeatable. This result could signal one of the most open title chases for years.

And if they prove as sharp as they did on Saturday, then Wycombe will be in the thick of the chase. At least they are now £40 richer for that display.

The remarkable thing was that Wycombe scored all those brilliant goals without the services of Stewart Atkins and Steve Long who up until now have looked

Blues most dangerous forwards.

Atkins pulled a hamstring after scoring a hat-trick against Hendon the previous week while Long was confined to bed with influenza.

HARRIS STARS

Instead it was the transfer-listed Derek Harris who stole the show with a dazzling performance which brought one goal and a major role in two others. If he continues to look as sharp as this, then Wycombe would be unwise to let him go.

With Harris it seems a question of confidence. That seemed to return in his first competitive appearance of the season and several clubs could be after him if he continues to perform like this.

The other goals came from the big mid-field man Dave Allanson, the much-maligned Dylan Evans, and youngster Terry Scott who seems to improve every game, although short on pace.

The big question everybody will be asking after this game is, "is this the end of Enfield's golden spell?" I would hesitate before giving a definite answer for they badly missed the services of injured goalkeeper Terry Moore. His replacement Dave Shea did not look the part although he could not be faulted directly for any of the goals.

Blues were fortunate in meeting Enfield on an off-day and the champions must still be favourite to regain their title. They pressed for much of the second half but were unable to penetrate Blues blanket defence.

Apart from the goals there was remarkably little goalmouth incident during the match, in which I remember only one goalkeeping save. Every time somebody shot for goal, the ball appeared to go into the net.

The first man on target was Allanson, who had given a hint of his powerful shooting in the Hendon game. In the 15th minute he received the ball just inside the area following a careless clearance out of defence by Steve King.

'Big Dave' did not hesitate but sent a first time shot inches inside the right hand post to give Blues the lead against the general run of play.

There was something of a stunned silence at Southbury Road as the Enfield fans — and there weren't many of them — are not used to seeing their team trailing. The home side tried to step up the pace but a strange lack of cohesion meant they caused Blues defence few problems.

FURTHER AHEAD

Instead it was Wycombe who went further ahead in the 31st minute following a brilliant piece of play by Harris. He broke well down the right and with astute play rounded defender Mark Wright to reach the by-line. From there he crossed to the far post where Evans scored with a powerful and well-directed header from 10 yards.

But Wycombe's joy turned to dismay three minutes later when a horrendous gaffe by Allanson let Enfield back into the game. His back pass to John Maskell was hopelessly weak and Nicky Glover nipped in to round the goalkeeper and score from a narrow angle.

This was their key period of the game and another Enfield goal then could have seen them storm to victory. But in their keenness to attack Enfield left gaps at the back and Wanderers or rather Harris took full toll two minutes before half-time.

TEAM : PAUL BIRDSEYE KICKS THE BALL IN THE AIR AT ENFIELD

Wright, coming up to join the attack, was robbed of possession on half-way. The ball was quickly transferred to Harris who was 40 yards from goal with only the goalkeeper to beat. He ran to the edge of the penalty area and then calmly chipped the ball over the advancing Shea for a classic and crucial goal.

This was the decisive goal. Enfield, without the services of Keith Searle who limped off at half-time to be replaced by Johnny Bishop, never really looked like scoring despite plenty of pressure.

Wycombe defended in numbers and just concentrated on counter-attacks in the second half. The back four looked a little stretched at times but they received enough support from their colleagues to avert danger.

One noticeable facet of Wycombe's play was their aggressiveness. I cannot remember Alan Phillips quite so positive in his tackling even if he did overdo it a little. He and Bishop had a rare old battle, which once brought harsh words from the referee.

Wycombe already had the match well won when they added the fourth in injury time. Harris was put clean through a slack Enfield defence, and shot for goal. Shea blocked the effort but the ball rebounded to Scott who had the simplest chance of putting it home from six yards for his first goal for the club.

This was a sweet moment for manager Williams who spent three years with Enfield as a goalkeeper. To see his former club so well beaten must have brought much pleasure and hope for the near future as Blues are now up with the leaders.

ENFIELD: D. Shea, M. Wright, J. Tone, T. Jennings, K. Elley, R. Howell, M. O'Sullivan, T. Hurlock, K. Searle (sub J. Bishop 45 mins), N. Glover, S. King.

WYCOMBE: J. Maskell, P. Birdseye, R. Davies, K. Mead, A. Phillips, D. Allanson, D. Harris, M. Hoifield, D. Evans, H. Kennedy (sub: J. Priestley 82 mins), T. Scott.

Referee: J. Martin (Alton).
Half time 1-3. Scorers: Enfield Glover (34 mins); Wycombe: Allanson, (15), Evans (31), Harris (43), Scott (90).

WYCOMBE manager Andy Williams has special reason to be happy after that 4-1 victory at Enfield on Saturday, writes Michael Knox.

It was Enfield's heaviest home defeat for seven years, when they lost 4-0 to Wanderers at Southbury Road in 1971/72. The Enfield goalkeeper on that occasion was (you've guessed it) Andy Williams.

Mr Williams said: "All I remember about that particular game was that Wycombe were awarded a hat-trick of penalties which John Delaney put away."

Returning to Saturday's game, Mr Williams commented: "Our finishing was clinical. We looked like scoring every time we attacked. The whole side played well."

One of the heroes of the game was Derek Harris, whom the club have recently put on the transfer list. Harris scored one

goal and made another but Mr Williams revealed that the club had not taken him off the list.

Mr Williams must now turn his attention to the local derby at home to Slough tonight (Tuesday). He has a number of illness and injury cases to sort out before he can name his side for one of Blues' most difficult games of the season.

STILL OUT

One player definitely out is striker Stewart Atkins, who has not yet recovered from a hamstring injury. There is some doubt about Steve Long, who had a temperature over the weekend, while Keith Mead and Howard Kennedy are nursing groin strains.

Both Mead and Kennedy are expected to be fit and if that's the case, then Mr Williams will probably name an unchanged side. Whether they can over-

come a Slough side, who have made a patchy start to the season remains to be seen.

Slough's two most notable pre-season signings were the former QPR goalkeeper Richard Teale, improving after a poor start and the former young Wycombe defender Richard Strong, who headed the winner against Sutton United on Saturday. Another former Wanderer Terry Reardon is doubtful with a muscle injury while ex-Borough Road College striker Micky Kieley is definitely out with an injured ankle.

One of Slough's main threats will be the former Flackwell Heath winger David Russell.

The probably Slough side for tonight is: Richard Teale, Roger Mackay, Bobby Underwood, John Beyer, Richard Strong, Terry Reardon, Barry Metcalf, Alan Gane, Paul Lee, Ian Cooke, David Russell, Paul Hodder.

